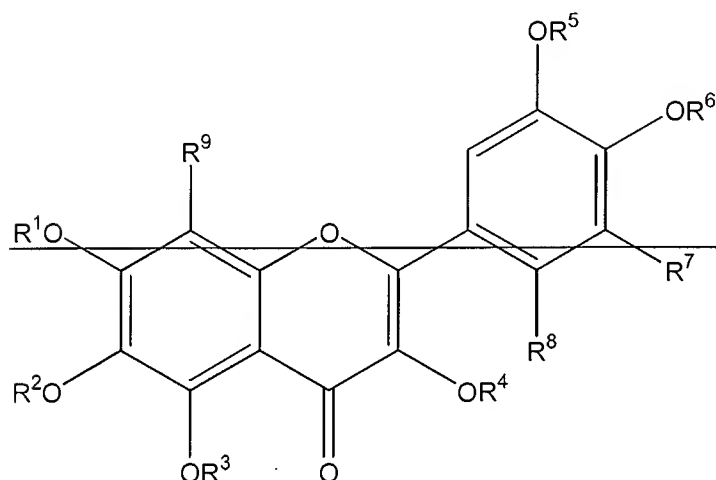


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An external preparation for skin, comprising ~~a one or more~~ compound(s) represented by the following general formula (1) ~~selected from 5,7-dihydroxy-3,6-dimethoxy-2-(5-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one, 5,7-dihydroxy-3,6,8-trimethoxy-2-(3,4,5-trihydroxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one, and 3,5-diethoxy-6,7-dimethoxy-2-(5-ethoxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one~~ and/or a salt thereof in a range of 0.035 to 2.0% by mass



General Formula (I)

wherein, ~~R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, and R⁶ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and R⁷, R⁸, and R⁹ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, or an alkyloxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and~~ 4-n-butyl resorcinol and/or a salt thereof in a range of 0.05 to 5% by mass.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein a source of the compound ~~represented by the general formula (1)~~ and/or salt thereof is an extract of a plant of the genus *Achillea* sp. of the family Compositae or the genus *Centaurea* sp. of the family Compositae.

4. (Original) The external preparation for skin according to claim 3, wherein the plant of the genus *Achillea* sp. of the family Compositae is selected from *Achillea ageratum*,

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Achillea cartilaginea, *Achillea clavenae*, *Achillea filipendula*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Achillea nana*, *Achillea ptarmica*, and *Achillea tomentosa*, and the plant of the genus *Centaurea* sp. of the family *Compositae* is *Centaurea cyanus*.

5-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Withdrawn) A method for whitening skin comprising applying the external preparation for skin according to claim 1 to the skin of an individual, whereby the skin of the individual is whitened.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for lightening skin comprising applying the external preparation for skin according to claim 1 to the skin of an individual, whereby the skin of the individual is lightened.